With over 250 student organizations on UNI's campus, it is no surprise that it can be quite overwhelming at times for students to find an organization that is the right fit for them. From philanthropic organizations to ones dedicated to fostering panther pride, the list of groups a student can join can seem daunting. Fortunately, for students looking at a future in the medical sciences, nine pre-professional organizations hold regular meetings at UNI and exist to prepare students for their future career in their respective field. These organizations include:

- Pre-Chiropractic Club
- Pre-Occupational Therapy Club
- Pre-Optometry Club
- Pre-Physicians Assistant Club
- Pre-Veterinary Club
- UNI Pre-Dental Club
- UNI Pre-Medical Club
- UNI Pre-Nursing Club
- UNI Pre-Physical Therapy Club

While all of these clubs have a different mission statement, they all serve the same basic purpose- to provide their members the opportunity to gain exposure to their future profession and help them as they prepare to enter the workforce or continue their education.

“The purpose of our student organization is to help other students interested in occupational therapy gather information about the profession; whether it is how to go about getting observation hours, writing a personal statement or how to apply for graduate schools,” stated Karli Church, a senior leisure youth and human services major and Co-President of the Pre-Occupational Therapy Club. “We also have professionals and graduate school programs come in and talk to members of our club about what it is like working in occupational therapy.” Much like the Pre-Occupational Therapy Club, the UNI Pre-Dental Club assists students who are considering a career in dentistry after they finish their undergraduate work at UNI.

“We give students experiences and information to determine if the profession is right for them,” said Austin Voves, a senior biology- honors research major and President of the UNI Pre-Dental Club. “I personally have been directed toward resources and professional experiences through this club that have solidified my career choice. My application to dental school is stronger due to the advice I’ve been given through my involvement with this club throughout my undergraduate career.”

These organizations aren’t just about preparing students for their future careers though. Jade Simpson, a senior biology major and President of the UNI Pre-Medical Club, has found a lot of benefits from joining the club her freshmen year.

“In addition to all of the professional development I’ve had the opportunity to go through,”
explained Simpson. “I’ve gained multiple friendships with those who have similar goals of going to medical school as me.”

Interested in learning more about these organizations? Visit the Student Involvement Center’s organization search tool to find out more. If you are considering pursuing a career in any of the medical science professional fields these nine pre-professional clubs represent, send an e-mail to their club’s president(s); their contact information is below.

**PRE-CIHPRAFRACTIC CLUB**
President
- Tyler Speed, movement and exercise science major (speedt@uni.edu)

**PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLUB**
Co-Presidents
- Sara Poepppe, leisure, youth and human services major (poepppes@uni.edu)
- Karli Church, leisure, youth and human services major (churchk@uni.edu)

**PRE-OPTOMETRY CLUB**
Co-Presidents
- Allison Gruwell, biology major (gruwewaa@uni.edu)
- Luke Ploessl, biology: biomedical major, (ploessll@uni.edu)

**PRE-PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT CLUB**
Co-Presidents
- Elena Lushine, biology and biochemistry double major (lushinee@uni.edu)
- Blake Clark, biology major (clarkb44@uni.edu)

**PRE-VETERINARY CLUB**
President
- Brittney Evans, biology: pre-veterinary major (evansbad@uni.edu)

**UNI PRE-DENTAL CLUB**
President
- Austin Voves, biology: honors research major (vovesa@uni.edu)

**UNI PRE-MEDICAL CLUB**
President
- Jade Simpson, biology: honors research major (simpsjad@uni.edu)

**UNI PRE-NURSING CLUB**
Co-Presidents
- Hannah Gingerich, biology: pre-nursing major (gingerih@uni.edu)
- Abigail Dunn, biology: pre-nursing (dunnaae@uni.edu)

**UNI PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY CLUB**
Co-Presidents
- Alex Reif, biology major, (reifaaa@uni.edu)
- Austin Kramer, biology major (krameaaj@uni.edu)

Story by Daniel Vorwerk
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vorwerkd@uni.edu

STEM at UNI and STEM Education at UNI supports the Vision & Mission of UNI by engaging UNI students, faculty, & staff in STEM campus programs & outreach for K-12 students and educators.

If you are interested in being featured for one of our STEM Stories, please contact us. We would love to hear your story.